

garden which is on the shingle at Lade, Lydd-on-Sea, Kent (OS grid reference TR 084205), on 8 August 1996. Although he is not an expert he knew that it was something different and thinking it might be a Marbled White, *Melanargia galathea* L., had time to get a book out and compare the individual directly with the illustrations to confirm identification. In a similar way, I was discussing the regular occurrence this year of *Colias croceus* Geoffr. on the fields where I work at Harpenden, Hertfordshire when a colleague, Dr Steve Foster, casually announced that he had seen a Queen of Spain Fritillary *Argynnis lathonia* L. the previous weekend whilst walking in the Cotswolds. With his agreement I am reporting the observation here. It was at Shenberrow Hill, near Stanton, Gloucestershire (SP 075339) on 17 August. (Yes, we have already had the Dr Foster went to Gloucester joke!) Steve is now a professional entomologist working on aphids but he collected butterflies as a boy and is certain that his fleeting glimpse, as the species alighted briefly, was of this species. By comparison with the above, and in this exceptional year for migrant Lepidoptera, my personal records so far are somewhat meagre. An *Heliothis peltigera* D. & S. nectaring on *Centaurea* in Potton Wood, Bedfordshire on 21 August (TL 55505) and a further one in my Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap on 1 September (RIS site 336 Cockayne Hatley (TL 253494)). Also in my trap, *Spodoptera exigua* Hb. between 17-18 August was the first confirmed record for this species in Bedfordshire. All four of the common migrant species *Autographa gamma* L., *Udea ferrugalis* Hb., *Nomophila noctuella* D. & S. and *Plutella xylostella* L. have occurred in exceptional numbers, higher than anything recorded in the last twenty years at this site. Finally, a *Macroglossum stellatarum* L. resting on The Cutters Inn, Ely, Cambridgeshire (TL 543798) on 25 August.— IAN WOIWOD, South Lodge, Cockayne Hatley, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2EA.

**Southern Chestnut *Agrochola haematidea* D.&S. (Lep.: Noctuidae)
recently discovered in Hampshire**

Whilst reviewing the autumn species at m.v. light in a grassy field adjoining oak woodland on 8.x.1996, in the company of Don Humphrey and Andrew Page, I was amazed to see three specimens of *Agrochola haematidea*. They came in at about 7pm in characteristic buzzing flight. We were about 200 metres from the the nearest heathland. Mercury-vapour light trapping on this heathland on 12.x.1996, produced twenty specimens of the moth and, as it was seen in several other spots, it seems likely that it is established over quite a wide area here.

The exact locality is being withheld for the time being; it is hoped however, that this short note will stimulate other lepidopterists to look for the moth in new areas in southern England.— R.R. COOK, 11 Greensome Drive, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 8BE.